



# UU Update

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa

• April 2011 • Volume 55 • Issue 4 •

## Sunday Services at 9:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

### April 3

#### JUSTICE SUNDAY "The City on the Hill"

The Biblical image (Matt 5:14) of "the city on the hill" has captured the imagination of Christian justice-seekers and meaning-makers for many generations. Our own Puritan ancestors, and later Unitarian ancestors wanted Boston to be such a place. What would the Glorious Golden City, as we have sung of it, really look like? Can we ever see such perfection?

*Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell*  
*Worship Associate: Scott Miller*  
*The Choir will perform at 9:15.*

### April 10

#### WHO'S IN CHARGE?

This is an interesting question on many levels. Come join us as we explore our relationship to authority in our personal lives, our congregational life, and our spiritual lives.

Jamie McReynolds has been a member of this congregation since 1995, and lives in the SF East Bay where he works as a full-time hospice chaplain. He is a graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, CA and will have just returned from Boston from his interview with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, seeking preliminary fellowship as a UU minister.

*Service Leader: Jamie McReynolds*  
*Worship Associate: Lucia Milburn/Susan Bartholome*  
*The Choir will perform at 11:00.*



### April 17

#### "INTO THE TOMB, AND OUT AGAIN..."

The images and metaphors of Easter are well known and celebrated in Unitarian Universalist congregations, with one notable exception. Jesus gives many of us trouble. (He has always done that, by the way.) Today we'll look at Good Friday, and consider its lessons, as we approach the great joy of rebirth next week.

*Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell*  
*Worship Associate: Rita Butterfield/Claire Beery*

### April 24

#### EASTER / FLOWER COMMUNION / EARTH DAY

Today we will celebrate the incredible life-generating power of Earth and community, which transcends even death. Our children will be with us for the whole service. Please bring a flower (or a whole bouquet!) to share with others in our annual flower communion.

*Service Leader: Rev. Chris Bell*  
*Worship Associate: Scott Miller*  
*A guest vocal duet at 9:15. The Choir at 11:00.*

### May 1

#### "WE ARE GOOD ENOUGH FOR GOD!"

In the Bible, the apostle Peter has a strange and dramatic vision that symbolizes his prejudice against people different from himself. This morning we will reflect on prejudice, and recall that only God has the right to judge us, and He/She always says, "Good enough!"

The Rev. Erika Demeter is the Unitarian minister to three congregations in Transylvania. She is studying pastoral counseling at the Graduate Theological Union while her husband, Rev. Levente Lázár, is the Balázs Scholar at Starr King School. She hopes to continue her counseling studies upon returning to Europe.

*Service Leader: Rev. Erika Demeter*  
*Worship Associate: Andy Levine*

## Inch by Inch, Row by Row



Well, I just got all caught up in the beauty of plants and Frances Corman's wonderful reflection a couple of weeks ago, and have been compelled to dig around in this notion of spiritual gardening a little more as a way of thinking about how to live faithful Unitarian Universalist lives. If you have a black thumb instead of a green one, relax. You don't literally have to have a garden to appreciate the metaphor, although learning to sustain life around you, even in the simplest plant form, can invite life back into your self, and is worth doing.

Many UUs throughout our history have found the sacred in nature. But there is a difference between seeing the glory and majesty of the Spirit of Life in a mountain field of wild flowers, a dramatic ocean sunset, or the sweeping peaks and valleys of the Sierras, and finding that spirit in a garden. In a garden we have added our piece. We are not merely admiring Nature's work, but daring to complement it, even improve it. A beautiful garden is a cooperative venture, a collaboration between what naturally IS (the terrain, the sunlight, the soil, the moisture) and our intentions and our actions. A garden is more like our human life in its combination of what is given, and what choices we make in relation to that. We were born to the parents we were born to, and we can't change that, and we've made the choices we've made in the past. But who shall we be now?

If I were the plant that reflects who I wish I was, I might imagine myself a mighty redwood, striving to reach the sky, and connected to all my brothers and sisters. But if I were the plant that reflects who I *actually* am, I suspect I would likely be something a little more prickly than I would like, a little more wilted than I imagine, and a heckuva lot smaller than a redwood. More of a house plant, really. At other times I just feel like a battered old weed. Most of us do sooner or later, depending on our choices and fortunes and upbringing. Our UU tradition teaches us, however, that there are no weeds. We all have a place in this garden!

Human beings, like plants, need certain conditions to grow and thrive. All of the pieces have to come together to turn a seed into a plant. There has to be the right amount of water, the temperature of the soil, the appropriate amount of competition from the other plants all around. We have to be planted in the right spot. You can't expect a palm to grow in Cleveland, and you can't help but grow rosemary in Santa Rosa. Creating the conditions for joyful, faithful and creative children and adults is our collective spiritual task as a congregation, and our mission as

a people.

How can we ensure that our community is a beautiful garden, and each of us a plant that's blooming within it? How can we bring benefit to ourselves and each other, and let the power of life that turns seeds into trees also turn us into what we are meant to be?

First, a plant needs to be rooted. You have to put it in a particular spot, let it know the environs, let it find the deep ground water that will sustain it during the dry spells. So, too, it helps to really be rooted in community, to own it and claim it as your own, and say, "This is my place." Ask any long-time member about that.

A garden needs weeding, too. We've been reading a lot of Buddhist scripture and teaching around UUCSR lately, and much of its wisdom concerns uprooting the negative and unwholesome thoughts, stories and behaviors that bring ourselves trouble and confusion. We have the power to uproot these and remove them, if we will claim it.

A garden needs watering and sunlight. We have to open ourselves to receiving the nourishment that the world and each other can provide. We have to accept beauty and hope into our lives. We have to surround ourselves with loving people, and be a loving person for others, and soak it up. No one would ever yell at a plant for taking its complete fill of water and sun. Are you nourishing yourself in the same way?

I believe in the power of this community not only because of its inherent blessings and benefits, but because I see it reflecting a power that lies underneath all creation. The power of love and creation is not only in our imagination, but is part of life itself and is what the wise call holy. I worship that power. I think most of you worship it too, each in your way. It really helps us to believe in, and trust, the fullness of love and life and reason and imagination and beauty and mystery, whatever we name it or however we approach it. Go however far your leaning into goodness, kindness and love may take you! If the Great Big Thing is ever to be intimated in one's life, it will be there.

As Unitarian Universalists we get to get down into the soil together, get our hands dirty, and put our assumptions and our faith to the test with each other. We get to have transforming conversations with people who share our values and Principles, sprinkling little seeds of thought and insight and emotion among each other for the future, and we get to be a part of a centuries old garden, with many obvious and hidden delights.

May you grow and blossom until we meet again, and may the Spirit of Spring arise amongst us all.

Rev. Chris

## "Moral Force" and the Certainty Principle

*"When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me."*

*—Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> Letter to the Corinthians*

Michael Krasny's *Spiritual Envy: An Agnostic's Quest* can be read as a highly literate lamentation on the loss of child-like faith and the self-acknowledged inability of the author to find an adequate replacement for those still unquenched spiritual longings. *"Agnosticism does not preclude spiritual hunger,"* writes Michael, whose highly engaging conversation with our own Rev. Chris on March 5 in the UUCSR sanctuary can now be accessed in audio format on our website.

This spiritual hunger which Michael spends pretty much the full 235 pages of his book elaborating brings to mind the hunger-satiety-renewed-hunger cycle we experience with food. No matter how fine and fulfilling our last spiritual "meal" of love, awe, wonder and oneness may have been, its effects tend to fade, and soon enough, the hunger has returned and we need to set out again on the hunt to satisfy it. (Morning meditation or sunrise walk in the woods, anyone?)

At least some modicum of certainty (and the comforts that go along with it) is what Michael and the rest of us are after—certainty that there is some overarching sense to the universe, that our lives matter, that this short speeding time we occupy on earth will not turn out to have been just a fruitless exercise in vanity and self-delusion.

The symbol of this longed-for certainty has its most potent and universal expression in the word "God" and all the imagery that flows from it. And it is the loss of child-like "belief" in this Comforter-in-Chief that has bedeviled humanity since about the time of the Enlightenment, when rationality and science began their long erosion of the porous foundation upon which that version of God sat on his throne.

*"I was searching not just for answers but for something that could give moral force to the choice of doing good, something that could stand in as an argument for the moral hegemony and moral power of God,"* Michael writes.

What might that moral force be? I would like to consider a couple of possibilities here. First: the magisterial force of the human imagination, in all its propensity to create gods and moral codes and works of sublime beauty that help propel us toward what would appear to be a universal ethic of love.

The renegade Anglican theologian Don Cupitt sets the stage thusly:

*"The truth of the human condition, then, is pretty much as it is presented by Samuel Beckett. There is not "literally" any God out there. There is no life after death; the end of our life is simply the end of our life, as we all know. There is no antecedently laid on or ready-made cosmic order out there, nor any moral order either. There isn't even any ready-made self, and there is no ready-made Meaning of Life."*

Quite the task in front of us, yes? No God out there, no eternal life, no inherent moral order or self. All of it awaits our creative meaning-making project as free adults shorn of the age-old crutches of certainty that a sky God will ultimately take us to his bosom and hold us close for eternity. But it's helpful to remember we are not alone in this quest, not doomed to author our lives from Plato's darkened cave, gasping at shadows.

Which brings us to a second possible moral force: our fellow humans—and all that they bequeath us. Born into a particular time and place in the human pageant, we are formed and sustained not only by history and the forebears who have paved the path of civilization and culture before us, but also by each other, today, in a community of fellow seekers and encouragers. (I like the very sound of "en-courage" in its fostering or promotion of courage in each other; we can use all of that we can get.)

As a religious community, we have a tradition that is ours to grapple with, one that is generous and spacious enough to allow the full flexion of our self-creating muscles in concert with others who help encourage our efforts. Though we cannot be certain of what awaits on the other side of the cosmic curtain, we can be very certain of both the concrete and emotional reality we encounter at 547 Mendocino Ave. We have a real building here that we can behold and touch, animated by the living, breathing bodies of those who enter its doors. In the very act of community, committed to showing up for each other in a spirit of openness and generosity, we fulfill, I think, Michael's deeply felt desire to *"give moral force to the choice of doing good."* What greater force could there be than a committed, inter-dependent band of believers in the capacity of human beings to do good, be kind, and live in love?

*—Andrew Hidas  
President, Board of Trustees*

## Treasurer's Report

February and March have been exciting months for the UUCSR financial scene. We have had two exceptional fundraising events: the Chalice Project celebration and auction, and Michael Krasny in conversation with The Rev. Chris Bell. After paying artists, sales tax and splitting proceeds with COTS, we made \$4,200 on the Chalice Project art auction. The Krasny affair netted over \$8,200. These happenings not only raised money for UUCSR, they were joyous and stimulating events that engaged us in the greater community.

And it is not too early to note the May 22 date for the piano concert at 4 pm at UUCSR celebrating the musical legacy of Adolph Baller. This concert will feature 7 outstanding pianists, most of whom studied with Baller. They will be playing the piano on which he taught and which was so generously donated to UUCSR

by his niece, Mary Louise Jaffray. The proceeds from this concert will go toward the support of our congregation.

In March we launched our 2011-2012 fiscal year pledge campaign with House Meetings that generated wonderful conversations about the many things we value and receive from our membership in UUCSR. These meetings also gave us a chance to discuss and better understand the finances of UUCSR and to make our annual pledge. We have already received pledges from more than half of our members. If you have not already done so, please submit your pledge card by April 3. And please contribute as generously as you are able.

Laura Jean Hageman.,  
Co-Treasurer

## Committee on Shared Ministry

Communication can be a tricky undertaking for us humans. Living and working in community with others provides ample opportunity to experience joy, compassion, connection, trust and encouragement, but also at times conflict, disappointment, disconnection, and discouragement.

This holds as true for congregational life as anywhere else. As UUs we covenant to respect the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and to work toward peace and justice in human relations. To me, this suggests that if I have a conflict or issue with another individual or body of people, it is impor-

tant to try to communicate my concerns directly and respectfully to that individual or body, so that there is opportunity for resolution or understanding at the source. Being the conflict-avoidant youngest child that I am, direct communication of my needs or concerns has involved a lifelong learning curve for me, but has almost invariably proved to be worth the effort and (yes) anxiety involved.

There are of course times when this approach doesn't work, or simply doesn't feel safe on an emotional level. In those instances, the presence of another caring person or persons to facilitate discussion, and

lend perspective and ideas can be immensely helpful. This is a service that your Committee on Shared Ministry stands ready to provide should the need arise. The current members of the Committee on Shared Ministry are myself, Rev. Chris Bell, Nancy Hargis, Andy Levine, Elizabeth Marrs, and Mary Wagner. Please feel free to contact any of us if you have a concern, conflict, challenge, or simply a need to talk about something affecting you as a member of our UUCSR community.

Yours in loving community,  
Cathy Read/Committee on  
Shared Ministry

## Religious Education for Children and Youth

Last month our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders learned about an organization called "Free the Children" in their RE class. Free the Children is an international non-profit organization that empowers children to help children in need around the world. Our kids were deeply inspired by the story of how Free the Children got started and the work they do. So inspired were Maddie, Braden and Maia that they are now in the throes of putting together a big fundraiser to be held in June. Let me tell you more, and hopefully you will be inspired too.

Fifteen years ago a 12-year-old Canadian boy named Craig Kielburger read a newspaper article about another 12-year-old boy, Iqbal Masih, of South Asia who had been sold into slavery at the age of 4 and captured the world's attention by speaking out for children's rights. Iqbal's work was widely covered in the media and eventually caught the eye of those who would want to silence him. He was killed defending the rights of children. Craig was so touched and outraged by the story that he and a small group of friends began what would grow into a monumental children's justice effort. He learned that children's voices can be heard and that children can have power to bring lasting change.

As I was researching Free the Children to present a lesson to the rest of the RE children I learned that they recently opened an office in the bay area. One call led to another and I discovered that a Youth Summit was scheduled in San Francisco the next weekend and that Craig would be addressing the children. So, on March 5 I was able to take Maia and Maddie to an inspiring day of learning with about 120 other children from all over the bay area. They learned about child labor in third world countries and how most of the clothes we buy come from companies that use the labor of children. They learned about the harsh economic realities that force families to send their children to work. They learned about how clean water is

something we here in the US take as a given, but in other countries it is very hard to come by, and that devastating disease from contaminated water is a huge problem in the world. Both girls came back home wanting to share what they had learned with other kids and to pool their energy to help with the Free the Children effort.

It is a tricky business teaching children about the harsh injustices of the world. There is a natural instinct to protect children against such sad reality. Last month's devastation in Japan was difficult for adults to process, and as much as we might have wanted to protect our children from the tragedy, they knew all about it. How could they not, it was everywhere. If children can express their fears about tragedy and injustice, and ask questions to caring adults they can find a way of sorting it out. As Unitarian Universalists we affirm and promote the interconnected web of which we are a part. Working for change, and supporting those around the world who suffer is a way for us to strengthen the web. This is what we teach our children in RE. We cannot deny that injustice and tragedy exist but there are many sides to every story. In the case of Japan and in the lives of the many people Free the Children has touched, the other side of suffering is the tremendous care and generosity that pours out of the human spirit.

You will be hearing much more from the kids in RE about Free the Children and their effort to help. In the meantime mark your calendar for a fundraising talent show on June 11 here at UUCSR. For more information about Free the Children, please google it—you will be amazed!

In Faith,  
Deborah Mason



## Advocates for Social Justice

### SHARE THE BASKET

On Sunday, April 10, half of the Offertory collection will go to **Becoming Independent**. This organization's mission is to promote community inclusion and participation for people with developmental disabilities. Its vision is an improved quality of life - meaningful work, recreation, and the support of family, friends and community. In 2009-2010 2,564 people were served, they served 406 families with 695,074 hours of care and a 92% rate of success. This program has been an enormous help and support for the family of Nina, Lucia Milburn and Joe Como, so when the basket comes your way, please help all you can.

On Sunday, April 24 half of the Offertory collection will go to the **Saturday Breakfast**. We've discovered that we've been dipping into the program's reserves at an

alarming rate so have decided to Share the Basket more frequently with this most valuable and important project. What with the economy being as it is, this service is in increasing demand, and food prices are rising. UUCSR has gained wide recognition and great appreciation for this endeavor and it would be a shame if we had to cut back on the quality and quantity of the food we serve. So please, when the basket comes to you, help as much as you can! Thank you.

We thought you'd like to know how generous you have been since the beginning of our fiscal year.

July -The Living Room \$403  
 August - Saturday Breakfast \$631  
 September - Pediatric Dental Initiative \$611  
 Face to Face \$465

October - MLK Jr. Event \$205  
 Pakistan Flood Victims \$637  
 November - Saturday Breakfast \$489  
 Standing on the Side of Love \$428  
 December - YWCA Safe House \$541  
 The Living Room \$233  
 January - NBSC/Phoenix Training \$385  
 Redwood Empire Food Bank \$287  
 February - Saturday Breakfast \$566  
 Meals on Wheels \$442

WOW!!!!!!!

Also, we thought you'd like to know how many people we've served breakfast to. In February our total of those who signed in (sometimes they forget) was 691. That averages out to about 170 men, women, and children each Saturday. And they really appreciate it! Thank you.

## Hot Topics

On Sunday, April 3 from 12:30 to 2 pm share in a conversation with Imam Siddiqui. He is, in essence, a teacher as he believes, as a supporter of Islam, that teaching counteracts ignorance which is the basis of Islamophobia. Among many activities, Imam Siddiqui was the founder director of the Orange County Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice. He is a writer, poet and prison chaplain. His awards include Islamic Teacher of the Year, 1982, 2000, and 2004; Giant of Justice Award given by CLUE (Clergy and Laity United for Equality) in 2005; and the Distinguished Service Award of the United Nations Association in 2001. He is currently engaged with the Muslim Institute of Interfaith Studies here in Santa Rosa as well as the North Bay Jewish Muslim Dialogue, the North Bay Youth and Family Workshop, the Middle East Study Group for Peace in Sonoma, and the Peace and Justice Center of Sonoma County. Imam Siddiqui is well equipped to answer our questions about Islam and the experience of Muslims in Sonoma County. A light lunch will be available for a donation.

## Welcome to Our New Sexton

Please welcome our new sexton, Phil Butterfield. Effective April 1, 2011, he will become our newest staff member.

Not only has Phil been doing the janitorial work for the past month or so but he has worked with David Templeton doing on-site staff work for the past several years and is very familiar with the building and what

needs to be done. He cares about how the building should look and has a vested interest in keeping everything clean and beautiful.

A reminder to everyone to please direct any needs or concerns regarding the sexton position directly to Janis Brewster, our administrator.

## 3rd Annual Men's Retreat

**Please mark your calendar for the 3rd Annual Men's Retreat  
scheduled for August 26, 27 & 28.**

We are headed back to the wonderful Saint Dorothy's Rest in Camp Meeker.

See more information in the coming months.

Any questions please contact Andy Levine @ 887-9810

## Save This Date!!!

Our Great Big UUCSR Camping Weekend will happen this summer from Friday, July 15 through Sunday, July 17. This major event is sometimes referred to as our All-Congregation Retreat or Family Camp. By *any* name it's a great weekend of fellowship, fun, workshops designed to teach and/or entertain, games, fine food, fresh air, swimming, a talent show, a silent auction, singing around a campfire, a Sunday service in the redwoods, hiking,, and special activities for kids of all ages! (*Now read over that list again and figure out which ones appeal to you most!*)

It all happens at Valley of the Moon Camp, just over the hill from Santa Rosa. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss it!

The entire weekend costs \$160. Saturday only, including lunch, for adults and those over 12, is \$50. Limited scholarships are available.

Sign-ups will begin soon!

### **Questions?**

**Call Barrie Noe, 823-5018 or Pat Wilson, at 537-8562.**



## Crock-Pot Cook-off

Now is the time to sign up for the crock-pot (and casserole) cook-off. Here's how:

- (i) Contemplate your delicious crock-pot creations.
- (ii) Choose the special one to enter into the contest.
- (iii) Look for the sign-up table in the social hall Sunday after each service.

- (iv) Sign-up to bring your crock-pot dish (or casserole) on May 22.

All congregants: Please stay for lunch on May 22 to eat the crock-pot contents and participate in choosing the winning crock and honorable mentions.

Fundraiser for UUCSR operations.

## Evening Book Group



The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, April 14 at 7:00 pm at 547 Mendocino.

Our selection this month is The Immortal

Life of Henrietta Lax by Rebecca Skloot. Newcomers and visitors are always welcome.

Linda Lampson

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2011**

**Newsletter@uusantarosa.org**

**E-mail Submissions**

**Greatly Appreciated!**

**Newsletter Assembly**

**10 am—April 27, 2011**

## A Slice of TIE

"Do you believe in the concept of karma?", "Rituals and traditions", "Once upon a time", "Nobody's that old", "What has life taught you so far?" ..... These are just a few of the tantalizing topics we can explore in TIE (Together in Exploration) groups. Imagine 8 to 10 folks sharing thoughts and feelings in response to the selected topic for that meeting, Add regular meetings, twice a month, from October through May. Fold in two facilitators who gently guide the process. Stir in a

chalice lighting, a check-in, opening and closing words, a check-out and you have a TIE group. Very tasty.

We will be offering new groups in September which will begin in October. We are hoping to offer a summer group and will be publicizing that when it is definite. If you would like to learn more about TIE groups please call or email any of us on the steering committee.

Jeanie Bates, Dorris Lee, Carolyn McLeese,  
JoAnn Robson, Mary Wagner, Marge Wright

## PCD District Assembly 2011!

### The Transient and the Permanent:

Celebrating 50 Years of the Unitarian Universalism  
Association of Congregations!

Fun for the Family!

Don't miss our Children & Youth programming at this  
year's District Assembly!

Registration deadline for Children & Youth programs is  
April 30, 2011.

Nursery (0-4): \$55.00

Children: (5-11) \$65.00

Middle School: \$75.00

High School: \$75.00

See the PCD DA2011 web page for more information!

## UUCSR Writers

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa, Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Ave., 707-568-5381. Information: Georgette G. deBlois, [GGdeB@aol.com](mailto:GGdeB@aol.com)  
<http://uucsrwriters.blogspot.com>

**Next Regular Monthly Meeting** - Presentations and Feedback: Monday, April 4 from 4 - 6 pm. Participants give presentations and receive feedback on a "Work in Progress".

### UUCSR Writers Presents:

*Monday, April 25, from 6 - 8 pm.*

*Dorris Lee - "Reading Faster and Better"*

Former National and International Director of Instruction for Evelyn Wood Reading Dynamics and, Author of "Rapid Reader" and "Reader's Edge," both video-and-manual programs.

*Monday, May 23, from 6 - 8 pm.*

*David Templeton - "Film Noir and the Screen Writer"*

"UUCSR Writers Literary Laureate 2010-2012"

Presentation and discussion about the Balance between the Work of the Screen Writer and the Need of the

Craftsperson to find his/her audience.

*Monday, June 20, from 6-8 pm.*

*Juan De la O, Independent Film Maker—"Making a Film Trailer"*

"UUCSR Writers Screen Writer-Film Maker Laureate 2010-2012"

Presentation and discussion about bringing more imagination, more experimentation, new faces, new ideas and better quality to his production of "Mindless".

Thursday's at the "Haven Coffee House"

Every Thursday morning, 10am - 12 noon

Located in one of the few remaining authentic video stores in Sonoma County, the Video Droid on 1901 Mendocino Avenue in the Santa Rosa JC area. It's in the same parking lot as CVS Pharmacy. Parking is free. Buy yourself a good cup of coffee or hot chocolate and a morning pastry of your choice. Enjoy the ambiance at the "Haven" as well as the pleasure of our humor, clever conversations and the periodic, spontaneous outburst of laughter that permeates the atmosphere.

Take Care, Georgette G. deBlois, [GGdeB@aol.com](mailto:GGdeB@aol.com)



## UUCAN—Upcoming Events

### Unitarian Universalist Conversation & Action Network (UUCAN) - Upcoming Events

What do Education, Employment, Mental Health, and Police/Community Relations have in common? Answer: they are the four issues that are currently being researched by the North Bay Sponsoring Committee. Through a series of house meetings where we shared personal stories that reflected our concerns about what is happening in our community, these were lifted up as issues of widespread interest. Members from our congregation and our fellow NBSC member institutions have been meeting with key people in Sonoma County who have influence and impact on programs related to these four areas.

Over the past year North Bay Sponsoring Committee members have had meetings with more than 60 public officials and high level professionals. The intent of these meetings has been to share with them the real life concerns we have heard from members of our institutions, to hear what the professionals think are the biggest issues confronting them in their work, and to look for ways that the North Bay Sponsoring Committee can have positive impact. We have learned a lot, and we have built important relationships with people in positions of power in Sonoma County along the way. Now it is time to go back to the source, and you are the source for the direction of the NBSC. We need to hear, once again, the stories that effect you and your families

in order that the work of the North Bay Sponsoring Committee continues to be on track with the interests of our people. We want to hear your stories about how you and your families have been effected by the issues related to Education, Employment, Mental Health, and the working of Law Enforcement so that our work remains relevant to the UUCSR community.

Please mark your calendars and plan to participate in an afternoon of community conversation after the 11:00 service on Sunday, April 17. (Lunch will be provided) We will offer stories on what we have heard so far, give updates on research, and break into small group "house meetings" to share stories about your experiences related to these issues.

### Upcoming UUCAN & NBSC Events

Sunday April 17: Community Conversations & Research Action Update 12:30 Lunch / 1:00- 2:30 Program

Monday, April 4: Meeting with Santa Rosa Chief of Police regarding changes in law enforcement policy on car impounding 7:00 - 9:00. Held at Resurrection Parish 303 Stony Point Rd., Santa Rosa

Sunday, May 22: Bay Area IAF Assembly & Training 2:00 - 5:00 Held at Novato High School Auditorium. Stay tuned for more details.

*Questions? Contact Deborah Mason, Linda Harlow or any other UUCAN Leader.*

## Women Together

The time has come to sign up for this year's Weekend Retreat at beautiful Saint Dorothy's Rest from Friday, April 29 at 4 pm to Sunday, May 1 at noon. Our theme is "*Beauty*" which we will explore in its myriad forms! There will be a wide variety of workshops to choose among, a silent auction to raise money for next year's scholarships, plus the delicious food, peaceful setting, puzzles and games, time for yourself and the opportunity to deepen your relationship with old friends and make new ones. We particularly invite new and newer members to come!

This year there are two rates. If you want to bring your own sheets and towels the cost is \$155. If you want them supplied for you, the cost is \$165. As always, partial scholarships are available. Your check insures your reservation.

Look for our sign-up table in the Narthex (the hallway between the Social Hall and the RE Wing) before and after both services on Sundays April 3, 10, and 17. On Sunday, April 3, only members and pledging friends may sign up. On the following two Sundays, others are welcome to join us. Registration forms will be available at our sign-up table only.

As any woman who's attended this retreat can tell you, it's the best way to get and keep connected with the UU congregation!

For more information, come to our table starting on Sunday, April 3 or call Linda Harlow at 526-3528 or Cathie Weise at 829-3634.

## Aging with Grace

In order to better serve the time commitments of the "Aging With Grace" group, there will be duplicate sessions:



First Wednesday of the Month:	10:30 am—12:00 noon
Second Thursday of the Month:	10:00 am—11:30 am
April 6 and 14	<u>What Are My Taxes?</u>
May 4 and 12	<u>What Are My End Of Life Expenses?</u>

Moderator: Bob Watkins, 707-775-8627

## Happy Birthday, Friday Family Fun Night At the Family Support Center

This hands on service project, developed and offered by the Advocates for Social Justice, is one year old. On Friday nights we offer one hour, from 6:30 to 7:30, of uncomplicated fun to adults and children who are clients at the Family Support Center, the only family shelter in Santa Rosa. We play bingo with the adults and any children who are interested and offer a separate room full of activities for the children who are not bingo players.

The sights and sounds of these Friday Family Fun Nights are gratifying. I don't know what makes a bingo game silly but that's what happens—we get silly. It's laugh-out-loud fun for all of us. The children's room is a treat, full of eager children enjoying experiences and connecting with each other and our adults. There are so many vignettes that are there to be savored at

the end of each Friday Family Fun Night. On any given Friday it may be the 8-year-old girl cutting and pasting with smiling concentration, the 9-year-old boy mastering the game of Block Head and showing no mercy for the adult trying to hold her own, or the 6-year-old girl, offering her artistic creation to one of us at the end of our time. It is good work. This hour of fun must surely come as a welcome relief for families bearing the stress of homelessness.

You, members of our congregation, have stepped forward and have created a successful program. We now have dependable staffing with teams committed to each week of the month. There is room for more of you to join in. If you would like more information please call or email Jeanie Bates at 824-0530 or [jeaniebmf@gmail.com](mailto:jeaniebmf@gmail.com).

## Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa 17 February, 2011

Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Andrew Hidas. Board met in RE Wing.

**Members Present:** Craig Work, Laura Jean Hageman, Bonnie Daines, Mary Louise Jaffray, Phyllis Heagney, Lois Nagle, John Farison, Anne Chambers, Andrew Hidas.

**Non-members Present:** Rev. Chris Bell, Member Betty Miller.  
**Absent:** Recording Secretary Terry Graham.

**Discussion of Check-in Question:** *Have you ever lost your faith? (In God, existence, humanity, your family, yourself...)* How did you find it again?

**Approval of Minutes** from January meeting, no corrections.

**Open Mic:** Phyllis Heagney related that husband Fred Dodge is using his credit card to purchase goods for the church and is then reimbursed. She wonders why doesn't the church have its own credit card. Chris responded that credit cards are not issued to insti-

tutions without a real person named as accountable. This led to expanded discussion about getting merchant accounts at hardware stores, etc. Is it also possible to get wholesalers to work with us, for better prices? The problem is that our needs may not be consistent or volume-intensive enough to be of interest to wholesalers. Citing time constraints for what could be a long discussion, Andrew suggested that this conversation be continued at another time in another venue.

No resolution or proposal.

**Treasurer's Report:** Laura Jean reported that we are slightly behind in our income, but it is not yet a cause for worry; the winter months are typically sluggish. She has prepared what she hopes is a fairly easy-to-read one-page budget summary for the February 21 congregational meeting. The intent is to shift the focus from excessive details to overall trends so members can more readily understand our budget situation.

*Cont. on page 12*

## Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Cont.

Bonnie commented on changes in the budget process as our new governance process continues to evolve and take root. The emergence of the council system has complicated the process, but we should be happy about that even though the new system is taking time to develop.

**Solicitation Policy:** Chris reviewed minor revisions to a version he circulated at a previous meeting. It details acceptable business solicitations and transactions among, between and to UUCSR members and staff during congregational activities or staff workdays. It included a question of paid advertising in the UUCSR newsletter. Discussion ensued on this latter point. Consensus emerged that newsletter advertising is not a pressing or desirable need at this point, but that some opportunity for members to formally make their businesses known to other members can always be explored in another format. Laura Jean Hageman moved that the final item under 6 (newsletter advertising) be stricken from the policy, and so doing, that we adopt the policy without further amendment.

Phyllis seconded. All but one in favor, opposed by Lois Nagle, objecting only to the striking of the final item.

**Council of Councils Meeting:** Chris reported on the recent meeting attended by Phil Harriman for Ops Council, Mary Wolfe for Program Council, Gretchen Vap for Membership Council, Rose St. John for Financial Stewardship Council, and Andrew Hidas.

It was decided that the Councils should meet three times per year, perhaps best shortly before each congregational meeting. The question arose of who should convene the meeting? Chris convened this one, but does not intend to again, as it seems more appropriate for a member to head up this effort. Andrew suggested that the Board of Trustees Vice President may be the logical choice to convene the Council of Councils meeting.

Also discussed at the Councils meeting was the desire for good communication between the Councils and the Board. Mostly working fairly well, including the Google groups, etc.

All Council chairs present felt that it was a useful meeting.

Ann suggested that she would like to see the Council chairs brief the board at Board meetings on occasion, as has been done in the past.

**President-Elect:** Andrew reviewed the Board goal to establish a President-Elect process whereby the Board and congregation would know who would be the incoming president prior to convening of the new church year in July. Everyone who is continuing on the board next year is eligible. Self-nominations are allowed, as is voting for oneself. You can nominate yourself. Andrew asked if anyone objects to an oral, open vote. No objection heard.

Not eligible because no longer on Board next year: Andrew, Bonnie, Bob, Phyllis

Bonnie nominated Laura Jean and listed many reasons for doing so, including her work on the Finance Committee and her overall knowledge of the organization and many members.

Laura Jean accepted the nomination but emphasized the importance of selecting a reliable VP, which would enable her to continue enjoying occasional travel during her term if she is elected. No other nominees, Laura Jean Hageman elected by unanimous acclamation as President for 2011-2012.

Spectator and member Betty Miller asked for clarification on length of board and officer terms, as well as for clarification on the relationship between councils and committees.

Andrew initiated a break in the meeting and reconvened at 7:40 p.m.

### **Krasny Fundraiser Discussion:**

Event is Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup>. Andrew asked every Board member to attend and serve as reception hosts and helpers. He encouraged Board members to promote the event with friends. Fundraising goal: \$10,000. Andrew will post details to the focus list. He also asked Board members if they would personally invite 8-10 UUCSR members, a list of which he would distribute, along with contact information, to each Board member. He emphasized the importance and impact of direct invitations and reminders of congregational events, many of which can be lost or overlooked by members in the busy lives they lead.

### **Congregational Meeting Preparation:**

**Budget:** Laura Jean spoke of her intention to present the "goal budget" for 2011/2012. She distributed her one-page budget sheet for review. The goal budget calls for a 13% increase over 2010/2011 budget. Various speakers will present specific portions of the budget at the meeting.

**Appreciations:** Lillian Reid (stepping down from Finance), Jeanie Bates (stepping down from Advocates for Social Justice), Frances Corman for her many contributions over the years. (

**Visioning:** Chris will address the congregation's present and future

**Quorum counter:** 20% of 326 members = 65.

**Child Care:** We need two caregivers. Lois will contact possibilities from our usual list.

**Review of District Executive Controversy:** Chris summarized the situation of Cilla Raughley's dismissal as our PCD district executive after 8 years at the helm.

She was terminated by UUA over the objections of the PCD Board. Chris was among a large group of district ministers who supported the vote to terminate, based on what they considered an irreparable relationship between themselves and Cilla moving forward. He expects an interim executive will be named, then a search for a new permanent hire.

**Two-Signature Financial Transactions:** Laura Jean moved to approve the Financial Transactions Policy (for checks & online transfer transactions). John seconded, unanimous approval.

**Facebook Ads:** Chris reported he purchased a low-cost (\$30) ad for UUCSR's Facebook page that targets 5,000 people who are friends of those already connected to UUCSR. Promising results thus far.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Sowers, Acting Recording Secretary



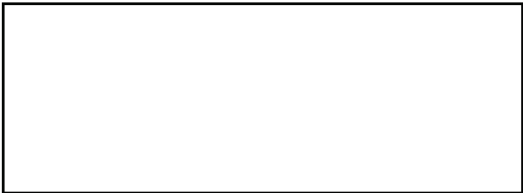
**Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa**

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April 2011

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**Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa**

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**Board of Trustees**

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**Vice President:** Mary Louise Jaffray  
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John Farison  
Phyllis Heagney  
Lois Nagle  
Craig Work

**Order of Service Announcements:**

Send submissions to [Orderofservice@uusantarosa.org](mailto:Orderofservice@uusantarosa.org)  
**Editor:** Janis Brewster  
**Deadline:** Wednesday, Noon, prior to Sunday Service

**UU Update Newsletter:**

Send submissions to [Newsletter@uusantarosa.org](mailto:Newsletter@uusantarosa.org)  
Newsletter by E-mail is available. To sign up, send an e-mail to [Administrator@uusantarosa.org](mailto:Administrator@uusantarosa.org) with your name and e-mail address

**Editor:** Janis Brewster  
**Newsletter deadline follows the 3rd Sunday. All electronic deadlines are noon Monday.**  
Please place any hard copy submissions in the Newsletter mail slot in the office by noon Sunday.

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Sexton: Phil Butterfield

**Sunday Religious Education Staff**  
Jeremy Cummings  
Aly Holloway

## Spring Events/Arts & Culture Happenings

Sunday, April 10, 2 pm

**Healdsburg  
Chorus**  
in Concert

Sunday, April 19, 8 pm

**Santa Rosa  
Junior College  
Orchestra**  
in concert



Saturday, April 16 7:30 pm

**Song of the Soul Concert**  
**Guru Ganesha Singh  
& Tina Malia**  
with Hans Christian & Craig Kholand

Saturday, May 7, 2 pm

**New Horizons Band  
of Sonoma County**

Sunday, May 8, 3 pm

**Occidental  
Community Choir**



Sunday, May 22 4:00 pm

**Adolph Baller:**  
**The Legacy Concert**  
7 Pianists, 1 Concert

A celebration of the musical legacy of Adolph Baller



Saturday, May 28 7:30 pm

**Trio Garufa  
& Un Deux Trois**

Music From Argentina & France